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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re: United States national stage entry of International patent application  
PCT/US03/028815

Date: March 11, 2005

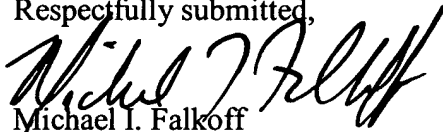
**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT OF CLAIMS**

To the Commissioner of Patents:

Applicant submits herewith a Preliminary Amendment of the originally-filed claims of the above-captioned International Application, and requests that said amendment be entered prior to calculation of the filing fee for national stage entry at this time. As so amended, the application presents 23 claims in total, of which four (4) are independent. The amendment comprises a clean copy of the claims. A separate attachment showing amendments by bracketing of deleted language and underlining of added text is appended for the Examiner's convenience. The amendments are intended to eliminate multiple dependent claims, and to reduce the number of claims, especially independent claims, by rephrasing or presenting limitations dependently. The amendments do not involve any new subject matter, and are submitted without prejudice to the later presentation of other claims directed to the canceled subject matter.

Any necessary fees are to be charged to our deposit account, and in the event that any further matters require attention for this filing, a telephone call to the below-signed attorney would be greatly appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,



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March 11, 2005